



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Fish kills likely during algal blooms and high temperature conditions

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has asked the public to be aware of a possible increase in fish kills and odors throughout area water bodies as a result of algal blooms in waterways as well as the current high temperatures affecting the state.

Certain waterbodies in the state may contain areas that appear to be green, blue-green, yellowish-brown or red in color as a result of algal blooms. The color varies given the species of algae inherent in the waterbody. Algal blooms form in waterways as a result of high temperatures, warmer water, increases in nutrients in the water, and water runoff containing agricultural fertilizers and/or phosphorus from household cleaning materials.

Larger waterbodies such as Lake Pontchartrain are seeing algal blooms as a result of these increases.

“While algae tends to grow quickly, it is short-lived, resulting in a high concentration of dead organic matter which starts to decay,” said Jeff Dauzat, DEQ Environmental Scientist. “The decay process consumes dissolved oxygen in the water, resulting in hypoxic conditions which may bring about fish kills, plant deterioration and odors.”

For any questions or concerns about fish kills, citizens may contact the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at (225) 219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424.

Citizens may also report an incident online by completing an incident reporting form at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/apps/forms/irf/forms/>.